

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ACDE-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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USCINCEUR

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 3850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJ: MBFR: OPTION III TIRLATERAL JULY 18, 1975--SUMMARY REPORT

REF: A) STATE 169248; B) USNATO 3812; C) STATE 165670; D) USNATO
3764

SUMMARY: UK, FRG, AND U.S. REPS DISCUSSED OPTION III ON AFTERNOON
OF JULY 18, 1975. THIS MESSAGE REVIEWS RESULTING STATE OF PLAY,
AND CONTAINS REQUESTS FOR WASHINGTON ACTION. FULL REPORT ON
TRILATERAL DISCUSSION FILLWS SEPTTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. U.S. REPS CIRCULATED DRAFT PAPER CONTAINED IN REF A.
UK AND FRG REPS AGREED THAT THIS DRAFT SHOULD BE CIRCULATED AT
NEXT SPC MEETING. WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON OF JULY 22.
EXCEPT AS NOTED BELOW, FRG AND UK AGREED THAT THIS PAPER ALONG
WITH THE DRAFT GUIDANCE COVERED ALL THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH
THEY FELT ALLIES MUST AGREE BEFORE OPTION III IS TABLED, THOUGH
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FRG REPS RESERVED RIGHT TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE. DISCUSSION
BROUGHT OUT STRONG UK AND FRG DIFFERENCES WITH PARA 3 OF U.S.
PAPER: UK WOULD LIKE IT TO STATE THAT A NUMBER FOR THE COMMON
CEILING MUST BE AGREED, AND FRG WOULD LIKE TO BRING IT INTO

LINE WITH FRG IDEAS SUMMARIZED IN PARA 10 OF REF B. THEY WERE ALSO UNCERTAIN ABOUT PARA 15; WHILE THEY HAD NO SPECIFIC OBJECTION TO IMPOSING A SOVIET SUB-CEILING WITHIN THE NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON AIR MANPOWER, THEY WANTED TO THINK ABOUT IT BEFORE AGREEING. REMAINDER OF U.S. PAPER APPEARED TO BE IN GENERAL ACCORD WITH UK AND FRG WISHES.

2. UK AND FRG REPS STRESSED THAT THEY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO REVIEW APPER THROUGHLY, AND U.S. REPS SAID THAT ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES WHICH THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSIES PROPOSED DURING JULY 21 COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INCORPORATION BEFORE PAPER IS TABLED IN SPC JULY 22. IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WERE SUGGESTED:

A. IN THIRD SENTENCE OF PARA 7, INSERT "COMBAT" AFTER WORD "ADDITIONAL."

B. IN PARA 10. INSERT "NUCLEAR" AT A SUITABLE POINT IN THE FIRST SENTENCE, POSSIBLY JUST BEFORE PHRASE "MISSILES OF A RANGE GREATER THAN 500 KM." COMMENT: U.S. TRILATERAL PARTICIPANTS FELT THIS WAS A BAD IDEA; MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENT IF U.S. DECIDES TO REJECT SUGGESTION. END COMMENT.

C. IN PARA 18, INSTERT "COLLECTIVELY" NEAR END OF FIRST SENTENCE BEFORE PHRASE "TO AIR AND GROUND FORCE MANPOWER."

3. ACTION REQUESTED: MISSION STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT PAPER SHOULD BE TABLED AT JULY 22 SPC MEETING, AND REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS TO DO SO, WITH OR WITHOUT CHANGES FROM TEXT IN REF A.

4. UK WILL TABLE ITS PAPER (REF C) IN THE SPC AS A NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION, BUT DOES NOT EXPECT IT TO BE WORKED IN SPC. AT SUGGESTION OF U.S. REPS, UK AGREED TO DELETE SECTIONS OF PARA 3 (EVERYTHING AFTER "MANAGEABLE") AND PARA 10 (GEVERYTHING AFTER SECOND SENTENCE, ENDING WITH "ELUCIDATION.").

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5. UK AND FRG REPS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY EXPECT THE SUPPLEMENTARY UNDERSTANDING TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF WHAT LIMITATIONS WOULD BE SOUGHT ON SOVIET NUCLEAR SYSTEMS COMPARABLE TO THOSE REDUCED BY THE U.S. THEY DO NOT CONSIDER THAT THE PHRASE "UNDERMINE THE AGREEMENT" IS SUFFICIENTLY PRECISE, AND ARE NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARED TO DEFER ALLIED DECISION UNTIL AFTER SOVIET RESPONSE TO OFFER IS RECEIVED, AS "U.S. VIEWS" PAPER SUGGESTS. UK CONSIDERS U.S. WILLINGNESS TO WORK OUT A MORE DEFINITE POSITION AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR DROPPING BULK OF PARA 10 IN UK PAPER. ACTION REQUESTED: DRAFT OF A PARAGRAPH FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PAPER WHICH ADDRESSES THIS PROBLEM.

6. THERE WAS AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF A FALL-BACK FROM THE POSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO LIMITATIONS WHATEVER ON ALLIED ARMAMENTS. IT WAS AGREED THAT FOR SECURITY REASONS THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE SPC, AND NEED NOT BE ALLUDED TO IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL PAPER. HOWEVER, UK AND FRG REQUIRE A FIRM TRILATERAL UNDERSTANDING ON THIS SUBJECT AS A CONDITION FOR LETTING OPTION III GO FORWARD (UK WANTS FALL-BACK POSITION AND FRG OPPOSES ONE).

7. FRG REQUESTED COMMENTS ON ITS TANKS/MANPOWER PAPER (REF D) AND ALSO ON A PAPER DISTRIBUTED AT THE TRILATERAL ON AIRCRAFT/MANPOWER (TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL). ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS, WHICH SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE FRG. FRG REP (RUTH) REQUESTED THAT SUCH COMMENTS BE FRANK "EVEN AT THE SACRIFICE OF PROFESSIONAL COURTESY."

8. UK WILL DRAFT A PAPER FOR TRILATERAL CONSIDERATION ON POSSIBLE FALL-BACKS. UK (TICKELL) REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHEN THIS PAPER WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

9. FRG ALSO CIRCULATED COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON U.S. AIRCRAFT DEFINITION PAPER (TRANSMITTED SEPTTEL), ON WHICH U.S. RESPONSE IS DESIRED.

10. THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSAL FROM ACTING SPC CHAIRMAN KILLHAM THAT SPC PLAN TO SET OPTION III ASIDE FROM AUGUST 10 UNTIL END OF AUGUST, SINCE NATIONAL OFFICIALS EMPOWERED TO CHANGE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE ON VACATION. TRI-SECRET

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LATERAL GROUP REACHED CONSENSUS THAT OPTION III MIGHT BE SET ASIDE UNTIL SEPTEMBER ONCE FULLY BRACKETED TEXTS OF BOTH GUIDANCE AND SUPPLEMENT HAD BEEN OBTAINED, SINCE AT THAT POINT FURTHER PROGRESS WOULD REQUIRE CHANGES IN NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS. IT WAS AGREED TO TRY TO REACH THIS POINT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WITHOUT AN EXPLICIT TARGET DATE. BRUCE

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